

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MANDERA
P.O. BOX 13, MANDERA**

In The Name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Third Annual State of the County Address on 22nd April 2025.

**The Honourable Speaker, Omar Mohamed Maalim
Hon. Members of the County Assembly,
County executive members,
County Chief Officers,
Invited guests and my fellow citizens,**

Authority assigned to a state officer vests in the officer the responsibility to serve the people rather than the power to rule them. It is in this spirit of service that I stand before you today, to deliver the third state of the county address, as required in the constitution of Kenya, Article 185, and Section 30(2) (k) of the County Government Act. I am honored to present this report to the County Assembly, and by extension to the public, to whom we are answerable as stipulated in article 73(2) (d). This provision emphasizes our obligation, as state officers, to be accountable for the decisions we make and the actions we take. This report will capture our service delivery, the implementation status of policies and future plans.

When we took on the responsibility of leadership, it was with a deep sense of purpose to fulfill our manifesto, rooted in equity, fairness and shared prosperity. True leadership, as John Maxwell says, is about knowing the way, showing the way and going the way. Guided by this philosophy, I have prioritised investing in human capital because people are the foundation of lasting development through generations. Along this journey, we have been guided by our vision to build a prosperous Mandera and a mission to create an accountable, cohesive and equitable county. Over the past three years, we have successfully delivered results across three key pillars of my manifesto.

Transforming Lives and livelihoods through social protection of the vulnerable population, improved healthcare, expanded access to quality education, agricultural and livestock development and supporting youth and women empowerment.

Transforming communities by strengthening conflict resolution, promoting public participation in development projects, decision-making and leading climate initiatives that earned Mandera international recognition.

Finally, transforming Mandera County by creating youth employment opportunities, maintaining roads and public utilities and empowering local businesses. To sustain the progress we've made, the county Executive has prioritised strong legal and policy frameworks to support effective service delivery. The following bills have been enacted to guide and reinforce our development agendas.

- ☐ The Mandera County Education Bursary Act 2024
- ☐ The Mandera County Disaster Risk Management Bill 2023
- ☐ The Mandera County Community Health Service Act 2024
- ☐ The Mandera County Facility Improvement Financing Act 2024

We appreciate the progress made in enacting key bills, and we look forward to the county Assembly's review and approval of the bills listed below:

- ☐ The Mandera County Peace Building and Conflict Management Bill 2024
- ☐ The Mandera County Water and Sanitation Services Bill 2024
- ☐ The Mandera County Corporations Bill 2024
- ☐ The Mandera County Investment Bill 2025
- ☐ The Mandera County Monitoring and Evaluation Policy

Notably, the Mandera County Peace Building and Conflict Management Bill 2023 proposes the formation of a County Religious Council, a body of Ulamas tasked with standardizing religious education, and addressing radicalization through expert informed programs.

As we move forward, reviewing and updating existing laws will be essential to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to our county's evolving needs.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to this House for its crucial role in governance. Your dedication to oversight, constructive criticism, and continuous support has been instrumental in shaping the policies that drive our progress. This Assembly has diligently fulfilled its mandate in legislation and representation.

Over the past three years, we have all worked together to build a stronger, more resilient county, ensuring that our residents receive the quality services they deserve. We look forward to achieving more together in the realization of devolved government functions as captured in Articles 6, 174 and 189.

In my previous address, we reflected on the foundational phase of our administration setting up government structures, tackling early challenges, and laying the groundwork for progress. Today, we shift our focus to the strides we have made, the solutions we have implemented, and the plans we have put in place to secure a better future. Our mission remains clear: to enhance the quality of life for our residents by ensuring full access to government services and sustained development across all sectors.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable Members,

Since the very beginning, we have been prioritizing education as a key pillar of sustainable development, due to its huge impact on shaping the future of our society.

The sector received a budget allocation of Ksh. **3.74 billion: 9%** of the total budget.

As a government, we have made it our top priority to ensure our children from all backgrounds have access to education, as we are not only empowering individuals but also securing the future of our county. Victor Hugo, a French writer and advocate for social justice, democracy and education, said, ***“He, who opens a school door, closes a prison.”*** This quote underscores the power of education, not just to acquire knowledge and skills but as a tool for reducing crime, breaking poverty cycles and fostering a better and empowered society.

1. Through deliberate interventions like Elimu Kwa Wote initiative, we have witnessed the return of students who had previously dropped out of schools due to financial constraints. Our commitment to inclusivity has seen the gates of our secondary schools fully opened to all students, while our colleges and vocational training centers continue to thrive.
2. The Elimu Kwa Wote initiative has played a crucial role in supporting learners by increasing bursary allocations. In FY 2022/2023, the county disbursed Ksh 350 million in bursaries. This figure increased to Ksh 460 million in FY 2023/2024, with an equivalent allocation planned for FY 2024/2025, bringing the total amount disbursed over three years to Ksh 1.27 billion. Through this initiative, 34,372 secondary school students and 5,697 university and college students have directly benefited, totaling 40,069 learners.
3. Furthermore, we have gone beyond our borders to sponsor out-of-county career studies, ensuring that our youth gain exposure to diverse educational opportunities and career pathways.

4. Over the past three years, the Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development has made remarkable progress in strengthening the education sector. Through targeted investments and strategic partnerships, we have significantly increased access to education, improved infrastructure, and enhanced learning outcomes for thousands of students
5. One of the significant achievements has been the increase in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) enrollment. In 2021, the number of enrolled pupils stood at 23,499. By 2023, this figure had risen to 32,409, and in 2024-2025, it further increased to 35,238. This steady growth is a direct result of the county's investment in ECDE, including the introduction of a school feeding program across all ECDE centers, which has greatly improved retention and attendance rates.
6. To support this growing number of learners, the county government increased the number of ECDE centers from 312 in 2022 to 367 in 2025. We have also recruited an additional 450 ECDE teachers, ensuring that each child receives quality education from well-trained educators.
7. To address the need for better learning environments, the county government has invested heavily in expanding ECDE infrastructure. A total of 66 new classrooms have been constructed across all 30 wards, while six ECDE centers have undergone renovations in the 2023/2024 financial year.
8. The county government has also prioritised the provision of teaching and learning materials, including play equipment, to ensure that children in ECDE centers have access to quality educational resources. To further enhance supervision and accountability, field officers have been deployed to oversee regular monitoring, supervision, and evaluation of ECDE activities across the County.
9. Recognizing the power of collaboration, the county has strengthened partnerships with key education stakeholders, including the World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF, Aga Khan University, and EiDU, among others. These partnerships have played a vital role in improving the quality of education in ECDE centers.
10. In addition, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Voice of Peace for All (VOPA) and Education Development Trust (EDT) targeting capacity building for 827 ECDE teachers. This partnership focuses on ensuring that ECDE

educators are well-equipped to implement the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) effectively. Due to these efforts, we have observed improved transition rates with 92% transition from ECDE to primary schools in 2024 compared to 80% in 2023.

11. To address teacher shortage in the county, the county government partnered with the state department of education to enroll over 1,000 teacher trainees. Mandera County Government is supporting this initiative by covering 50% of their college fees, fully funding infrastructure, providing ICT equipment and greening programs for the institution. In 2024, 696 trainees were supported, the number increased to 1102 in 2025.
12. The county has made significant strides in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), to equip young people with the skills needed for employment and entrepreneurship. In this regard, start-up kits have been provided to VTC graduates, enabling them to apply their skills in the job market. We have noted significant growth in enrollment, increasing from 465 in 2022 to 616 in 2024 translating to 32% growth.
13. In line with the government's commitment to advancing technology and innovation in education, ICT hubs have been initiated at Mandera VTC, Takaba VTC, and Banisa VTC, in partnership with the State Department of ICT. Additionally, the county is preparing for the establishment of a fully equipped ICT hub in collaboration with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), which will provide digital learning and training opportunities to young people.
14. The department of ICT successfully connected Mandera Teachers Training College (MTTC) and Mandera Technical Training Institute (MTTI) to fiber optic internet, enabling smooth national examinations for students. During the exam period, the department deployed two ICT officers to resolve technical challenges, ensuring a seamless experience.
15. The government has continued to support vocational training by fully covering examination fees for 476 trainees, sitting for the NITA examinations in December 2024. Examination materials have been supplied to vocational training centers, and procurement of start-up kits for trainees who completed NITA exams in April,

August, and December 2023 is ongoing, ensuring that they receive the necessary resources to transition into employment.

16. As part of the broader education reform agenda, the county government launched the Education Task Force Report, which provides a comprehensive roadmap for reforms in ECDE, TVET, Duksi integration, and the bursary program. This report will guide the county's efforts in creating an inclusive, high-quality education system that meets the needs of all learners.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable members,

A strong healthcare system ensures a healthy and productive society. This administration has dedicated special efforts to expanding access to quality medical services across the county. From upgrading health facilities to training personnel, improving maternal care, and increasing immunization coverage, we have made great strides in strengthening the healthcare system. The sector received a budget allocation of **8.09 billion**, representing **20%** of the total budget. It is important to note that, the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) bill has already been enacted into law. This will go a long way in utilizing funds collected in the respective health facilities.

17. One of the most significant milestones in our healthcare journey has been the upgrade of Mandera County Referral Hospital (MCRH) to a Level 5 Teaching and Referral Hospital. This transformation positions MCTRH as a center of excellence, providing specialized services and training medical professionals for the future.
18. The Banisa and Lafey theatres have been fully operationalized and are now offering emergency surgical and obstetric services, reducing the need for long-distance referrals. Across the county, all Level 4 hospitals are undergoing expansion and equipment upgrades, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle specialized medical care.
19. To ensure that hospitals and clinics are adequately stocked with medicines, the county increased its budgetary allocation for medical supplies from Kshs. 322.7 million to Kshs. 365 million. As a result, the volume of procured medical supplies grew by 13%, from 397 metric tons to 449 metric tons, meeting the demands of new health facilities and a growing population.

20. Access to healthcare has also improved through the rehabilitation of 27 health facilities and the operationalisation of 12 new health facilities across the county. With the official gazettment of 113 healthcare facilities, Mandera now has a legally recognised and well-structured healthcare system that ensures residents receive services from accredited institutions.
21. These efforts have been further supported by the recruitment of 60 new healthcare workers, including 12 medical officers, and the training of over 200 healthcare personnel in Basic and Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Care (BMOC, EMOC, and ENC).
22. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services, we just concluded the recruitment of nurses, Registered Clinical Officers along with orthopedic technologists. The newly recruited nurses have a diverse range of qualifications: Degree, diploma and certificate levels ensuring a well-rounded workforce.
23. To enhance emergency response, the county has added three brand-new, fully equipped ambulances to its fleet, ensuring that patients in need of urgent care can be transported quickly and safely to healthcare facilities.
24. We have successfully achieved the gazettment of the health management board who have been trained and oriented to the six sub-county Referral Hospitals and MCRTTH. Moreover, the recruitment of the CEO for the referral hospital to ensure efficiency and quality has also been completed.
25. Furthermore, the renal unit, kitchen, and specialised medical clinics at the County Referral Hospital have been expanded and completed, improving service delivery for patients requiring dialysis, nutritional support, and specialised treatments.
26. Maternal health has seen remarkable progress, with significant improvements in antenatal care, skilled deliveries, and caesarean section (CS) services. The number of pregnant women completing their fourth antenatal care (ANC) visit increased from 13,314 in 2022 to 16,568 in 2024, a 24% rise. Skilled deliveries also increased, with 26,165 births attended by qualified health professionals in 2024, up from 21,400 in 2022, representing a 22% increase.

- 27.** Additionally, the number of caesarean sections performed in county hospitals rose dramatically from 239 in 2022 to 629 in 2024, representing a 163% increase, reflecting improved access to life-saving pregnancy and childbirth care.
- 28.** Immunisation coverage has also improved, ensuring that our children are protected from preventable diseases. The number of BCG vaccine doses administered increased from 30,266 in 2022 to 33,638 in 2024, marking an 11% growth. Similarly, DPT vaccinations rose from 28,834 in 2022 to 32,021 in 2024, while Measles and Rubella vaccinations increased from 26,728 to 29,663, each showing an 11% improvement. The total number of fully immunised children under one year grew by 8%, from 26,356 infants in 2022 to 28,532 in 2024, reinforcing our commitment to protecting our children from life-threatening illnesses.
- 29.** The county government has significantly improved grassroots healthcare by expanding Community Health Units (CHUs). A total of 212 new CHUs have been registered, and 2,120 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) have been recruited and trained to enhance primary healthcare. Of these, 1,268 CHPs have undergone training in Community Health Services and the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS), equipping them with the knowledge and digital tools needed to monitor and improve public health at the community level.
- 30.** To support their work, 1,268 Community Health Promoters have been provided with kits, essential medicines, and mobile phones, allowing them to deliver first-level healthcare services effectively.
- 31.** Furthermore, three Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have been established at Mandera Training and Referral Hospital, Elwak and Takaba sub-county hospitals. The goal is to create a referral link between dispensaries, health centres, and higher-level hospitals, ensuring that patients receive timely and appropriate care.
- 32.** To improve food safety and nutritional health, the county, in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP), has successfully established two mini food laboratories in Takaba and Mandera. These facilities now enable the county to conduct food quality surveillance and control, ensuring that residents consume safe and nutritious food.

- 33.** Malnutrition, a long-standing health challenge in the region, is being addressed through targeted interventions. The Global Acute Malnutrition Rate (GAM) has significantly decreased from 28.8% in 2022 to 20.6% in 2024, demonstrating a strong improvement in child nutrition.
- 34.** Furthermore, the proportion of severely malnourished children (SAM) has dropped from 5.1% in 2022 to 3.2% in 2024, indicating that fewer children are at risk of life-threatening malnutrition.
- 35.** Efforts to promote universal health coverage are progressing well. Over 104,040 residents are currently registered under the Social Health Authority (SHA). The SHA claims system is operational in all public health facilities, allowing patients to access medical services seamlessly. I urge the honourable members and the general public to continue registering & creating awareness on SHA.
- 36.** To support regulatory health measures, food hygiene licenses and medical certificates for food handlers have been enforced across all sub-counties.
- 37.** The county has also made significant progress in medical education and workforce development. The Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in Mandera was fully funded by the county government. The institution has introduced Certificate and Diploma programs in Nursing and Clinical Medicine, with classes now in session. This initiative is a critical step in ensuring that the county produces well-trained healthcare professionals to meet the growing demand for medical services.
- 38.** Despite the achievements, we have plans in place to equip and operationalise all healthcare facilities on all levels, increase registration of SHA to make healthcare self-sufficient, replacement of old equipment , improvement of new sub-county hospitals i.e. Dandu, Kiliwehiri and Ashabito among many others.

Mandera County is predominantly home to pastoralist communities, whose livelihoods are deeply connected to livestock production. Over the years, the county government has prioritised initiatives aimed at empowering pastoralists and strengthening livestock resilience. However, the devastating drought of 2022/2023 inflicted severe losses on the pastoral economy, with an estimated Ksh **11 billion** worth of livestock perishing. Despite this setback, the county did not despair. We stood firm, joined hands, and sought external support to ensure our people remained hopeful as we continued to rebuild their livelihoods. The sector received a budget allocation of **2.11 billion**, representing **6%** of the total budget.

39. In response to the challenges faced by pastoralists, the county government of Mandera intensified efforts to enhance fodder production and availability. A total of 1,000 kilograms of Sudan grass seeds were procured and distributed, leading to an increase in hay production, with approximately 4-5 metric tons of hay baled and preserved.
40. To mitigate the impact of feed scarcity during the drought in 2022-2023, the county Government facilitated the distribution of 90,700 bags of range cubes, which played a critical role in improving livestock nutrition and preventing further losses.
41. Infrastructure development remains a key component of the county's strategy. A hay storage facility was constructed in Yabicho and Duduble to ensure sustainable fodder preservation and availability of feed during dry seasons.
42. The introduction and distribution of 68,000 Juncao grass cuttings across various locations provided an alternative fodder source for farmers, with each beneficiary receiving 850 cuttings through the FLOCCA project.
43. In a bid to improve market access for livestock traders, the Takaba Livestock Market was operationalised and a new market constructed at Shimpir Fatuma.
44. Additionally, to support honey production as an alternative livelihood, the county procured and distributed 540 modern beehives, enabling pastoralist communities to diversify their sources of income.

45. The county recruited 24 livestock extension officers to support farmers across the county. Farmers in multiple locations received training on fodder production and rangeland management, equipping them with the necessary skills to sustainably manage their grazing lands.
46. In an effort to cushion pastoralists against future shocks, the county facilitated the registration of 7,089 pastoralists under the livestock insurance program, with each beneficiary receiving a KES 6,000 bonus.
47. Ongoing activities include continued registration for livestock insurance for the March-April-May (MAM) season. Future plans focus on logistical support for extension service delivery, procurement of modern beehives, drought preparedness through animal feed procurement, and the operationalisation of the regional livestock market.
48. The county has remained steadfast in its commitment to livestock disease control, ensuring that pastoralists are safeguarded from outbreaks that could further threaten their herds. Through extensive vaccination campaigns, thousands of livestock have been immunised against major diseases. In FY 2022/2023 alone, 438,867 goats and 103,565 sheep were vaccinated against CCPP and Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP), while 10,208 cattle received vaccines for LSD. Efforts to combat PPR saw 289,472 goats and 96,612 sheep vaccinated, and 24,004 camels immunized against BQ.
49. To strengthen disease monitoring and response, the department conducted multiple surveillance activities, including investigations into brucellosis outbreaks, mass camel deaths, and rabies cases. Capacity-building initiatives saw 26 technical staff trained in participatory epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance, while 60 community disease reporters were equipped with the necessary knowledge to enhance disease surveillance.
50. In FY 2023/2024, the department continued its vaccination efforts, covering 133,677 goats, 41,107 sheep, 10,090 cattle, and 8,741 camels against Rift Valley Fever (RVF). Additionally, 235,331 goats were vaccinated against CCPP, and 69,696 goats and 19,110 sheep against PPR. Over 327,626 livestock were dewormed, and a countywide vector control program was implemented. The department also made strides in research by publishing a journal on priority livestock diseases in Mandera West Sub-County.

- 51.** For FY 2024/2025, the county has already vaccinated 441,990 goats and 121,122 sheep against PPR, 4,988 camels against RVF, and 10,996 cattle against LSD. Deworming efforts have covered 552,247 animals, while 5,864 animals have received treatment for various infectious diseases. Training has remained a priority, with 35 technical staff trained on collecting a mobile-based reporting tool, and 90 community disease reporters trained on syndromic disease surveillance.
- 52.** Ongoing projects include the construction of a slaughterhouse in Takaba and veterinary drug stores in Takaba and Elwak. The county is also planning a countywide PPR vaccination campaign and further training on Kenya Animal Bio-surveillance (KABs) in partnership with FCDC.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable members,

Given the recurring drought conditions in Mandera, efforts have been directed towards expanding irrigation and flood control infrastructure.

- 53.** A total of 18 projects were implemented across various sub-counties, with focus on irrigation, water supply networks, flood control structures, and farm infrastructure improvement. Mandera East benefitted from projects such as the Burabor Farms Irrigation Pipeline, and the Neboi Farms Flood Control Structures, while Banissa saw the desilting of water pans and the installation of irrigation pump-sets.
- 54.** Mandera North witnessed key interventions, including the opening of irrigation canal access and the solarisation of Kalicha farms. In Arabia, the construction of flood control structures in Haresa and Areri were completed to mitigate the effects of seasonal flooding. Similar interventions were carried out in Khalalio, Sharif Iley, and Burabor in Mandera East to enhance flood resilience and protect local communities.
- 55.** In addition, ongoing projects such as the installation of irrigation infrastructure in Yabicho, and the construction of a gabion wall at the Shantoley irrigation schemes aimed to enhance resilience against climate shocks and improved agricultural productivity. Due to these efforts, the irrigated land area has expanded by 4.3% from the baseline irrigated area.

- 56.** The county distributed 36 metric tons of assorted seeds, agrochemicals, and farm tools to support farmers. As a result, the total area under crop production increased from 7,885 hectares in 2022/23 to 8,339 hectares in 2023/24.
- 57.** Consequently, yields improved significantly, with 1,036 metric tons of sorghum and 3,195 metric tons of maize harvested. The value of crops at the farm gate increased by 14.6%, reaching Ksh 1.53 billion, primarily due to expanded horticultural production.
- 58.** To strengthen extension services, the county recruited 25 agricultural staff to support farmers with the best practices. Various irrigation projects were implemented, including the Girisa and Malkakuna schemes, supported by partners such as WFP.
- 59.** Additionally, 1,187 farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture, pest management, soil conservation, and post-harvest handling through collaborations with development partners.
- 60.** Under the FSRP/ELRP program, key interventions included the registration of farmers, recruitment of 98 agripreneurs, and the supply of rangeland seeds to 2,500 households. Infrastructure development projects included irrigation pipeline installations in Aresa and Malkakuna, water pan desilting in Ogorwein and Qorgowla, and the establishment of the Shimbir Fatuma Livestock Market.
- 61.** For the remaining period, the county government plans to enhance logistical support for extension services, provide farm input subsidies, and operationalise existing irrigation schemes. Efforts will also focus on value addition through the provision of equipment such as solar driers, posho mills, and threshers to farmers.
- 62.** The county government aims to support producer cooperatives, construct grain storage facilities, and expand water harvesting infrastructure to promote sustainable agricultural development.

Mandera County, an arid and semi-arid region, continues to face persistent water challenges worsened by prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The recent dry spell, coupled with below-average short rains across multiple sub-counties, has significantly strained water resources, making access to clean and sustainable water a pressing concern for residents. Additionally, the recent El Niño rains, while offering temporary relief, caused severe damage to critical water infrastructure, further complicating the situation.

Despite these challenges, the sector received a budget allocation of **6.16 billion**, representing **15%** of the total budget. The County Government has remained resolute in its commitment to improving water accessibility through well-coordinated interventions and strategic partnerships. MCG -The Department of Water Services has made remarkable progress in expanding water supply systems, increasing storage capacity, and implementing drought mitigation measures to safeguard the livelihoods of Mandera residents.

63. Over the past year, access to clean, safe, and sustainable water has improved, rising from 54% to 56%. This increase is attributed to several targeted interventions, including:

- ☐ Rehabilitation and desilting of 30 earth pans, significantly enhancing water storage capacity, and ensuring continued availability during dry seasons.
- ☐ Extension of 350 kilometres of water pipelines, which has brought clean water access to an additional 15,000 households across the county.
- ☐ Equipping 25 rural water projects have been implemented for sustainability. Over 200 rural water schemes now serve approximately 60% of the county's population.
- ☐ Construction of 60 underground storage tanks at strategic locations to ensure consistent water availability during drought emergencies.
- ☐ Development of 25 water pans with varying capacities to strengthen rainwater harvesting and improve resilience against drought conditions.

64. To enhance long-term planning, feasibility studies and design works for seven major water supply schemes—Rhamu, Lafey, Ashabito, Banisa, Dandu, Khalalio, and Diid Kuro were completed, with implementation currently underway. Additionally, the

Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) is financing selected projects in Elwak and Takaba through the Mander Water and Sewerage Company to improve service delivery.

- 65.** In response to severe water shortages, the county deployed 86 water bowzers to deliver water trucking services to 623 centres. The water bowzers delivered 80 million litres of water to 80,000 households, providing emergency relief to over 477,796 people.
- 66.** To enhance the efficiency of water infrastructure planning and development, the county acquired advanced equipment, including Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) technology for engineering surveys and the ABEM LS2 machine for groundwater exploration. With the ABEM LS2 machine, 80 hydrological surveys were conducted, successfully identifying fresh water sources with an estimated yield of 5–27m³ per hour, leading to the successful drilling of several boreholes in Eres Kore, Libehiya, Dadach Ulo, Karo, Arabia, Tarama, Burmayo, Dekale, Quracmuthow, Kobadadi. Kiliwehiri, Burduras , Gambela, sukella ulo, Dariqa Rhamu, Birkan and Elram.
- 67.** Due to the limited groundwater potential in some areas, the county engaged a Turkish expert to conduct further hydrogeological investigations. These efforts led to the identification of 66 potential drilling sites across the county, out of 20 boreholes drilled, 16 were successful.
- 68.** To address emergency breakdowns and ensure continuous water supply services, two Rapid Response Maintenance Teams and one Routine Inspection and Maintenance Team were established during the drought.
- 69.** To sustain borehole operations in critical areas, ten new generators were procured and installed at key boreholes, ensuring uninterrupted water supply during prolonged dry periods.
- 70.** Furthermore, under the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Project, 70 boreholes have been identified for rehabilitation, with 16 already at the design stage.

- 71.** Collaboration with development partners has played a crucial role in strengthening water infrastructure. UNICEF partnered to rehabilitate five water supplies, solarise 10 boreholes, connect 65 schools to water, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources.
- 72.** The county also participated in the K-WASH program, which included a WASH baseline assessment for schools and healthcare facilities. The collected data informed the development of a County Water Supply and Sanitation Strategic Plan, which will guide future investments in the sector.
- 73.** To strengthen water governance, the County Government, with support from WSTF, developed the County Water Services Bill, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2024 and is currently under review by the Mandera County Assembly. Once enacted, this Bill will provide a legal framework to enhance service delivery, regulate water usage, and ensure the sustainability of water resources.
- 74.** As part of its long-term strategy to address water shortages, the county organised a donor roundtable meeting for the Takaba Water Supply Master Plan, an ambitious 25-year project requiring KES 4.3 billion for full implementation. The master plan aims to:
- ☐ Drill new boreholes and rehabilitate existing ones to expand water availability.
 - ☐ Expand the earth pans to increase storage capacity to 400,000m³.
 - ☐ Establish water treatment plants and storage facilities to improve water quality.
 - ☐ Install new rising mains, distribution networks, and last-mile connectivity to ensure households receive a reliable water supply.
 - ☐ The Takaba Water Master Plan is a long-term solution to water shortages. This project is aimed at supplying water to 42,000 targeted beneficiaries in future.

To facilitate the execution of this master plan, a new water service provider was formed and registered in Takaba, ensuring improved water service delivery in the region.

75. Other partners, i.e. RACIDA, Islamic Relief, AAH, Red Cross, NAPAD and DRC contributed significantly by solarising 37 boreholes, constructing and desilting 5 water pans, delivering 15 generators, drilling 2 boreholes and improving five water infrastructures to support drought mitigation.
76. Despite ongoing challenges, including inadequate rainfall, infrastructure damage from the El Niño rains, and funding constraints, the County Government remains committed to mobilising resources and implementing strategic interventions to secure a sustainable and resilient water future for Mandera County. Through continued investment in infrastructure development, capacity building, and legislative advancements, the County Government aims to ensure that every resident, particularly those in remote and drought-prone areas, has access to clean, safe, and reliable water for household use, livestock, and economic activities.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable members,

The Ministry of Roads, Transport, and Public Works has achieved significant milestones in infrastructure development, transport logistics, and public works. The Department provides vital technical services such as building design, preparation of bills of quantities, and supervision of construction projects across the county. These initiatives have contributed to improved accessibility, enhanced security, reduced travel time, and boosted economic activities within the county.

Most of the roads constructed by Mandera County Government are class C and D. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) and not the county government. Although the county resources are limited and we have many pressing concerns, we have no choice but to prioritise these roads as they are a crucial requirement for effective service delivery and everyday activities for the residents.

I call upon our Members of Parliament to ensure that the people of Mandera, whom they represent, get their fair share of resources from government ministries and entities such as KeRRA.

The county Government focused on constructing all-weather marram roads, maintaining existing road networks, building drift and storm water protection systems, and opening new unclassified roads.

77. The county government successfully upgraded over 160 kilometres of about 26 roads to all-weather marram standards across the county. These projects included critical roads such as:

- ☐ Malkamari-Murutho Road
- ☐ Shirshir-Gofa Road
- ☐ Elwak-Kutayu Road
- ☐ Shimpir Fatuma-Burmaya Road
- ☐ Choroqo-Banisa Road
- ☐ Lagsure-Wangai Dahan Road
- ☐ Libahiya-Odha Road
- ☐ Kukub-Tarama Road
- ☐ Borehole 11-Falama Road
- ☐ Guba-Ashabito Road
- ☐ Farjan-Hullow Road
- ☐ Warankara-Safo Road
- ☐ Arabia-Bamboo 2 Road
- ☐ Boystown Road
- ☐ Ashabito-Ogorweyn-Elele Road
- ☐ Guticha-Langura-Saraman Road
- ☐ Marothile Town-Ashabito Girls Road
- ☐ Mubarak Village-Kubi Junction Road
- ☐ Kutulo-Suleka Dima Road
- ☐ Kutulo-Kutayu Road
- ☐ Shimbir Fatuma Town Roads
- ☐ Duduble-Takaba Road
- ☐ Sake Roads
- ☐ Dandu Borehole Road
- ☐ Livestock Market Road
- ☐ BP1 Roads

78. Routine maintenance was conducted on over 335 kilometres of road networks to ensure critical county roads remained accessible. Key roads maintained included:

- ☐ Takaba-Gither Road
- ☐ Gither-Burduras Road
- ☐ Burduras-Kiliweheri Road
- ☐ Takaba-Dandu Road
- ☐ Elwak-Shimpir Fatuma Road
- ☐ Shimpir Fatuma-Takaba Road

- ☐ Lafey-Waranqara Road
- ☐ Khalalio-Darika Road (grading and gravelling)

79. To mitigate seasonal flooding and enhance accessibility, the department implemented several drifts, culverts, and stormwater protection measures. These included:

- ☐ Lagsure Drift in Kiliweheri
- ☐ Drift at Waranqara Town and Beer Duur
- ☐ Stormwater protection at Rhamu Dimtu and Lagwarera Box Culverts
- ☐ Construction of drifts in Takaba, Lagdima, Lagborar, Khalalfow, and Bela Primary School
- ☐ Footbridge at Kamor
- ☐ Cross culverts across major roads in Mandera East
- ☐ Completion of Hareri Box Culvert

80. The county government enhanced connectivity by opening over 70 kilometres of new unclassified roads. Notable projects included:

- ☐ Domal-Andaraka Road
- ☐ Grading of roads in Dirribor-Tarama Location
- ☐ Patch improvement of Rhamu Dimtu-Garse Gabray Farm Road
- ☐ Grading and gravelling of Bulla Billow-Dadashatune-Lagsure Road

81. The Transport Department achieved significant progress in enhancing mobility and transportation logistics within the county. The launch of New County Vehicles: On 16th January 2025, the county launched 13 new motor vehicles and 40 motorcycles to improve service delivery.

82. Procurement of Transport Resources: 3 ambulances, 4 Land Cruiser hardtops, 6 Toyota Hilux vehicles, and 40 motorcycles.

83. Fleet Repair and Maintenance: 33 vehicles were repaired in the year 2023/2024

Moving forward, the department is committed to maintaining and expanding these achievements to support the county's continued economic and social development. The county government will focus on sustaining infrastructure quality, enhancing transport efficiency, and delivering technical support to other government projects.

Over the past few years, climate change has left a lasting impact on Mandera County and the country as a whole. Prolonged droughts devastated livelihoods, withering pastures, depleting water sources, and pushing both people and livestock to the brink. Just as communities were recovering, heavy rains followed, bringing a new set of challenges, including floods that destroyed infrastructure, displaced families, and further strained already fragile ecosystems.

In response to these climate extremes, Mandera County has taken decisive action to build resilience and mitigate environmental degradation. The county government has been at the forefront, rolling out a series of strategic interventions aimed at climate adaptation, sustainable resource management, and environmental restoration.

- 84.** Recognising that traditional farming methods can no longer withstand the harsh and unpredictable climate, the county has prioritized climate-smart agricultural practices to help farmers adapt. In Kutulo, Rhamu Dimtu, and Sala wards, 155 farmers were supported with drought-resistant seeds and farm inputs, enabling them to sustain crop production despite erratic rainfall patterns.
- 85.** To reduce over-reliance on livestock, the county introduced alternative income-generating activities such as beekeeping. 70 farmers in Banisa, Derkale, and Lagsure wards received modern Kenya Top Bar Hives (KTBH) and essential beekeeping equipment, allowing them to venture into honey production—a more climate-resilient source of income.
- 86.** Similarly, in Libehiya and Khalalio wards, 80 beneficiaries were provided with high-yield Juncao grass fodder, ensuring a reliable source of livestock feed even during dry spells.
- 87.** With deforestation and land degradation threatening the county's fragile ecosystem, afforestation has been a key priority. In 2023, under the greening program, 30,420 trees were planted to encourage environmental conservation.

- 88.** During the long rains, the county successfully distributed 16,000 tree seedlings—a mix of exotic and indigenous species—to public institutions and households.
- 89.** To further reduce reliance on firewood, the county has facilitated the installation of energy-saving jikos in three major public institutions—Takaba Girls, MTTC, and Mandera Special School. These stoves consume less firewood, helping preserve Mandera’s already limited tree cover while promoting clean and efficient cooking practices.
- 90.** Climate extremes have severely affected Mandera’s ecosystems, leading to land degradation, water shortages, and increased vulnerability to floods. To counter this, the county has started Ecosystem Restoration Project at Elwak Baraza Park, which has transformed the space into a greener, more sustainable environment. Additionally, similar efforts are ongoing at Lafey Boys and Lafey Girls Secondary Schools, ensuring students learn in eco-friendly surroundings.
- 91.** The Neboi Ward Riparian Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Control Project is another critical initiative. By planting bamboo along Neboi farms on River Daua’s banks, the county aims to stabilise the riverbank, reduce soil erosion, and minimise flood damage.
- 92.** With the ongoing climate change, I want to urge the Members of the County Assembly and the general public to discourage deforestation and local coal business, as the devastation to the total population afterwards is more expensive than the temporary individual profits.
- 93.** I want to recognize the Lafey community for their great work on conservation of the environment and the nurse at Sukela Quli dispensary for individual efforts towards afforestation. Once again Members of the honorable house, let us work together to encourage the public to take care of the environment and make individual efforts towards afforestation.
- 94.** Looking ahead, Mandera County is laying the foundation for long-term environmental sustainability. The establishment of an indigenous tree nursery at the Environment Office compound in Mandera town will provide a steady supply of tree seedlings for ongoing afforestation efforts.

95. The county has made significant progress in enhancing public lighting infrastructure through the installation of solar-powered streetlights and high-mast floodlights across various wards. These initiatives have greatly improved security, accessibility, and overall quality of life for residents.
96. In Township Ward, a total of 87 solar street light poles were installed, providing better illumination for roads and public spaces. Similarly, Fino and Warankara Wards each benefited from 53 solar street light poles, while Wargadud Ward received 29 poles. In Takaba South Ward, 78 solar streetlights were put in place, significantly enhancing nighttime visibility and safety.
97. Beyond street lighting, the county also focused on installing high-mast floodlights, which offer broader illumination in key areas. Gither Ward, for instance, saw the installation of one solar-powered high-mast floodlight. Khalalio Ward received a combination of 31 solar street light poles and two high-mast floodlights, ensuring well-lit surroundings for both pedestrians and motorists. Ashabito Ward also benefited from the installation of 19 solar streetlights, further extending the reach of this sustainable energy initiative.
98. These efforts reflect the county's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and community development. By prioritizing solar-powered lighting, the county has not only improved safety and mobility but also promoted the use of renewable energy, reducing dependence on non-renewable power sources.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable members,

The social development sector implements programs tailored to cushion communities from the effects of disasters, support vulnerable populations, and empower minority groups. The county allocated **2.01 billion**, 5% of the total budget.

With climate change causing prolonged droughts followed by devastating floods, over time, food security has become a top priority for the County Government of Mandera. Many families lost their livestock and farmland, leaving them vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

- 99.** To address this crisis, the sector improved social protection by providing food and non-food items to
- ☐ 60,000 Households in November 2022
 - ☐ 60,000 Households in March 2023
 - ☐ 50,000 HH in March 2024
 - ☐ 70,000 HH in February 2025
 - ☐ bringing the total to 240,000 HH

These programs were successfully implemented, ensuring the vulnerable populations were taken care of.

100. To promote independence and mobility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the county launched a mobility support program at the Disability Resource Centre in Mandera Town. The initiative distributed wheelchairs, tricycles, walking frames, and white canes to individuals who needed assistive devices. This program aims to ensure that PWDs can participate more actively in community life and economic activities.

101. Access to safe and stable housing is a key part of social protection. The county is currently working to complete **148** housing units under the Vulnerable Housing Program. These homes will provide much-needed shelter for low-income families, improving their quality of life and giving them a stable foundation for economic and social progress.

102. To ensure a long-term framework for social protection, the county is also finalising the Mandera County Social Protection Bill, which will formalise and expand programs supporting vulnerable groups.

103. The county government continues to lead the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through community education and collaboration with key stakeholders. In September 2024, a three-day FGM and GBV Champions Workshop was held in Mandera Town, organised by Habiba International Women and Youth Affairs (HIWYA). The workshop brought together government officials, religious leaders, elders, youth, and women to discuss strategies for eliminating harmful cultural practices.

- 104.** Additionally, the Outpatient GBV Centre at Mandera County Teaching Referral Hospital is now fully operational, offering medical, psychological, and legal support to survivors of GBV. The county has also strengthened Gender Technical Working Groups (GTWG) in Banisa, Rhamu, and Mandera East, providing training on referral pathways to ensure survivors receive timely assistance.
- 105.** Women's empowerment remains a priority, with the county working closely with the Police Gender Desk, the Judiciary, and the Health Sector to support survivors of GBV. The county also marked the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, raising awareness through radio talk shows and community meetings.
- 106.** To boost women's economic independence, the county has distributed income-generating equipment (IGE) to women entrepreneurs in Arabia Sub-County, helping them start small businesses. Additionally, school mentorship programs have inspired young girls to pursue education and leadership roles.
- 107.** Sports play a crucial role in keeping young people engaged, promoting peaceful coexistence, and nurturing talent. In June 2024, the county launched the Governor MAK Super Cup, the largest football tournament in Mandera's history. The event attracted 246 teams from all 30 wards, with 255 matches played across the county. The tournament aimed to identify young football talent, promote unity, and discourage crime and drug abuse. We recognise other leaders who took part in sub-county, ward and constituency tournaments.
- 108.** The Mandera County Taekwondo Team won the National Championship in Kwale and is now preparing for an international competition. Additionally, the Mandera East Youth Innovation Centre is currently undergoing renovations and will soon be operational, providing a space for young people to develop their skills and talents.
- 109.** To improve sports infrastructure, the county has built a new basketball court at Mandera Stadium, carried out renovations at Geneva Sports Ground, and is now planning to establish a Talent Academy. Future plans include training referees and coaches and providing sports kits to local teams.
- 110.** The Mandera County government is taking steps to preserve its rich culture and promote itself as a tourism destination. In November 2024, the county participated in the National Pastoralist Conference in Isiolo, highlighting its unique traditions

and way of life. Additionally, during the Annual Alternative Justice System Conference at Kabarak University, where I was a keynote speaker, Mandera was recognized as the best in cultural exhibitions.

111. The county has also completed the construction of three sub-county libraries, which will soon be opened to the public. Future plans include expanding the Somali Cultural Museum, organising a Cultural Week, training artisans and traditional dancers, equipping the new libraries, and mapping tourism sites for development.

112. On external support, the county government, in partnership with Rahma Worldwide, provided food and non-food items to 1,000 families, including 200 orphans, at the Mandera Islamic Centre. Additionally, the county worked with the World Food Program (WFP) to register 7,167 families in Mandera West, Kutulo, and Mandera South for a six-month cash transfer program, where each household receives Ksh 5,000 per month to buy food and other essentials.

113. In collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Kuza Jamii Consortium member GENCAD International, 1347 residents of Mandera East and Mandera South Sub-county benefited from business grants worth KES 40 million and training and mentorship programs. This project led to the establishment of 449 businesses and formation of 73 Village Savings and Loans Association.

114. In collaboration with the Ministry of ICT, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the British Embassy's Digital Access Program, the county has trained over 2,000 youths in digital skills, e-learning, and online job opportunities. Already, over 100 youth have secured online jobs, with many more engaging in digital learning. This initiative directly supports my manifesto on youth empowerment, providing alternative sources of income and employment.

115. In an effort to equip young people with skills for the modern job market, the county trained **1,000** youth under the Ajira Digital Program and another 1,080 in digital literacy programs through KICTANet and GENCAD. These programs provide young people with the knowledge and tools needed to access online work opportunities.

116. To further support youth, the county has developed the Mandera County Youth Policy in collaboration with UNDP and the National Youth Council. After public consultations, the draft policy is now set for cabinet discussion

117.Mandera County was also selected among 15 counties to benefit from UNESCO's DigiKen initiative, a program funded by the EU under the UN Joint SDG Fund. This initiative aims to empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) by fostering entrepreneurship, job creation, and digital innovation.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable members,

The Department of Public Service Management plays a crucial role in ensuring the effective and efficient development of public servants, overseeing policies, staffing levels, and organizational structures to enhance service delivery. The sector received budget allocation of **5.47 billion: 14%** of the total budget.

At the heart of this department are three key directorates: The **Directorate of Human Resource Management and Development**, which handles all human resource functions; the **Directorate of Administration**, responsible for general administrative duties; and the **Directorate of Office Administrative Services**, which ensures smooth secretarial operations.

The county government has remained committed to streamlining human resource functions and enhancing efficiency, ensuring that county employees are treated with dignity and professionalism. By prioritising the welfare of staff and embracing modern administrative systems, the county has taken significant strides in transforming public service management.

118.Mandera County's adoption of the new Human Resource Information System (HRIS-KE) in December 2024 marked a significant step in modernising human resource management. All county employees have been successfully migrated to this new system, which enhances data management, payroll processing, and overall efficiency in human resource administration.

119.The welfare of county employees has also been a key focus. The department has ensured that over 4000 employees and their dependents have medical cover, providing them with essential healthcare services

- 120.** Payroll management has also seen significant improvements. Through payroll segregation, employees have been properly categorised by ministries, departments, and pay stations, ensuring a well-organized and transparent payroll system. Additionally, payroll data cleansing has been conducted to align personnel records with payroll data, minimizing discrepancies.
- 121.** The introduction of the Unified Payroll Number (UPN) online system has further streamlined the payroll process, making it easier to register newly appointed staff while reducing manual interventions. This shift to an automated payroll system has increased efficiency, ensuring that employees' salaries are processed on time and that third-party institutions such as banks receive timely and accurate monthly reports.
- 122.** Looking ahead, the county government has outlined several strategic priorities to further enhance service delivery and human resource management. One of the key areas of focus is the establishment of an ICT-based records management system, which will ensure better handling and storage of HR records. Alongside this, the county government plans to develop a comprehensive records management policy to guide these operations effectively.
- 123.** To strengthen capacity, training sessions for Records Management Officers on the ICT-based system will be conducted. This will ensure that staffs are well-equipped with the necessary skills to handle digital records efficiently. Similarly, HR personnel will undergo training on the newly adopted HRIS-KE system, enabling them to maximise its benefits in payroll and employee management.
- 124.** Moving forward, the focus remains on enhancing efficiency, strengthening HR policies, and ensuring employee satisfaction, all while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and service excellence in Mandera County.

Mr. Speaker

Honorable Members,

The ICT Department has made significant progress in expanding digital access across the county.

125. 150 computers donated by the British Embassy, new ICT hubs have been established in Mandera East, Elwak, and Banisa, with plans to set up more in other sub-counties. These hubs are fully equipped with internet and necessary accessories and remain freely accessible to all youth, providing essential tools for digital literacy and economic empowerment.

126. The department played a key role in auditing and cleaning up bursary data to eliminate duplications, ensuring transparency in the Elimu Kwa Wote program. This initiative has saved the county significant funds and improved the efficiency of the online bursary management system, making it more reliable and cost-effective.

127. ICT officers were actively involved in the county's revenue mobilisation efforts, providing technical support in setting up POS machines and data collection. Their contribution has boosted revenue collection, with continuous support being provided.

128. Additionally, system audit and upgrade are underway to enhance revenue management systems, incorporating new revenue streams and reporting tools. Once completed, this upgrade will improve efficiency and transparency in the county's revenue collection.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable Members,

Mandera County is sandwiched between two neighbouring countries, Somalia and Ethiopia. This geographical location strategically sets the county up for trade opportunities. Therefore, this sector plays a vital role in promoting entrepreneurship, supporting local communities through trade funds for SACCOs, to ensure economic growth. The sector received a budget allocation of **786 million** of the total budgets.

Through collective efforts:

- 129.**The county has successfully constructed and operationalised El Danaba Market, providing 16 stalls and 35 market shades to improve trade infrastructure. Additionally, the second phase of Banisa Market is under construction through the State Department of Urban and Housing, which will further enhance trade in the region. This improved market infrastructure has resulted in an increase in the number of SMEs from 7200 to 8500.
- 130.**To support small businesses, the county has provided business start-up kits to 20 cooperatives and 55 SMEs across the county. Efforts to revive 15 dormant cooperative societies and SACCOs have strengthened cooperative growth and service delivery.
- 131.**To empower local communities, 12 new cooperatives were registered by pooling resources and improving market access.
- 132.**Cross-border trade has been enhanced, fostering strong relationships with neighbouring communities to create a stable and conducive business environment. In December 2024, the county government launched Mandera United Women Credit and Cooperative Society, the largest SACCO in Mandera, with 800 members.
- 133.**Additionally, the Ministry participated in the County Investment Conference in Lamu on June 27, 2024, where cooperatives and SMEs showcased locally produced and value-added products, gaining opportunities for networking and marketing.
- 134.**The county government aims to launch and operationalize the Mandera County Trade Development Fund, providing financial support to traders. Efforts will also focus on reviving dormant markets, stalls, and market shades across the county.
- 135.**Capacity building remains a priority, with training programs planned for cooperative societies and SMEs to enhance governance, commercialisation, and value addition
- 136.**The county government is also working on strengthening revenue collection, finalizing the County Cooperative Bill, 2023, for submission to the County Assembly, reinforcing cross-border trade initiatives to expand economic opportunities and mobilize youth and women across the county to join cooperatives.

Mandera County has made significant strides in improving land administration, urban planning, and housing development. The sector received budget allocation of **2.12 billion** translating to **5%** of the total budget.

137.One of the key achievements has been the establishment of a Geodetic Control Network, which has enhanced accuracy in land surveying and titling. This initiative has provided a reliable framework for mapping and property registration, reducing disputes over land ownership.

138.The digitalisation of land records led to the processing of about 9,000 title deeds and the digitalisation of 12,728 land records. This has resulted in improved transparency and security of land ownership.

139.To further support land management and urban planning, the county successfully set up a Geographic Information System (GIS) laboratory. This state-of-the-art facility is now being used for spatial data analysis, mapping, and planning, ensuring that land-use decisions are informed by accurate and up-to-date information.

140.Additionally, the ongoing implementation of the Land Information Management System (LIMS) is helping to streamline land administration across the sub-counties. Once fully operational, this system will enhance efficiency in land transactions, minimise conflicts, and promote secure land tenure.

141.In its commitment to improving service delivery, the county government is also focused on revenue enhancement through improved land services. By strengthening land administration and implementing better record-keeping practices, the county has been able to increase revenue collection while ensuring fair and transparent transactions.

142.Another major achievement has been the training and capacity building of staff on land administration, GIS applications, and the use of modern surveying equipment. These training programs have equipped officers with the necessary skills to handle land management more effectively. The integration of GIS technology into land use

planning and development monitoring has further strengthened the county's ability to make data-driven decisions, ensuring sustainable urban growth.

- 143.**The county is actively working on several major development projects aimed at improving land use planning and urban development. One of the key initiatives is the preparation of Physical and Land Use Development Plans for Kiliwehiri, Khalalio, Saala, and Rhamu Dimtu Centres. These plans, which are now at the final stage of completion, will serve as a blueprint for guiding sustainable urban development and infrastructure expansion in these areas.
- 144.**To enhance property taxation and revenue generation, the county is developing Valuation Rolls for Mandera and Elwak Municipalities. These valuation rolls will ensure fair property assessments and provide a structured approach to property taxation.
- 145.**Another significant project currently in progress is the County Spatial Plan, which aims to provide a comprehensive framework for land use, infrastructure development, and environmental conservation.
- 146.**The county is also prioritising land tenure security, with plans to issue 9,000 title deeds to residents in the coming months. This initiative will provide landowners with official ownership documents, reducing land disputes and promoting investment in property development.
- 147.**Additionally, the county has taken a step toward affordable housing development by identifying a site for the construction of affordable housing units. This project aligns with the national affordable housing agenda and seeks to provide decent and cost-effective homes for low- and middle-income residents.
- 148.**Encroachment on public lands due to lack of proper documentation remains a growing concern. This has resulted in disputes and unauthorized developments, complicating efforts to enforce land regulations. The county government is committed to protecting existing public land and reclaiming grabbed public land.
- 149.**Moving forward, the county will continue to prioritize land security, infrastructure planning, and affordable housing to ensure sustainable urban growth and improved living conditions for its residents. Through strategic planning and collaboration with

stakeholders, Mandera County is working towards a more organized, efficient, and well-managed land sector that supports economic development and social well-being.

Mr. Speaker

Honourable Members,

The Department for the Prevention of Radicalisation and Extremism and community cohesion has been actively implementing various initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism (CVE) in Mandera County. Through stakeholder engagements, community mobilisation, outreach programs, and training sessions, the county government has fostered partnerships that promote peace, security, and resilience among the most vulnerable populations.

150. To establish a structured approach to peace-building, the county has developed the Mandera County Draft Peace-building and Conflict Management Policy and Bill. Once enacted, this policy will serve as a framework for conflict resolution, ensuring that interventions are systematic, community-led, and sustainable.

151. The county organized a strategic engagement forum that brought together security officials, peace committees, Nyumba Kumi representatives, and administrators from Mandera East and Mandera North. This forum, supported by Inter-peace, facilitated discussions on strengthening collaboration between national and county government security actors.

152. A total of 174 outreach programs are carried out monthly, focusing on countering false ideologies through sermons, educational initiatives, and community dialogues. These outreach efforts have reached schools, correctional facilities, and community gatherings, reinforcing messages of tolerance and unity.

153. Another significant milestone has been the county's role in establishing and institutionalising the Alternative Justice System (Maslaha Centre) in Mandera Town. This initiative provides communities with an alternative dispute resolution mechanism rooted in traditional and culturally accepted mediation practices. The Maslaha Centre has been instrumental in resolving conflicts quickly and effectively, reducing the need for prolonged court battles and legal interventions.

- 154.** Revision and implementation of existing peace declarations and agreements to ensure that they remain relevant and effective in addressing current conflicts. These agreements will be regularly reviewed in consultation with communities and stakeholders to reflect the evolving dynamics of peace and security in Mandera County.
- 155.** On community cohesion, in partnership with the National Government, the county has actively participated in cross-border peace meetings with neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia and Somalia. These engagements have helped to strengthen cross-border relations, address emerging conflicts, and enhance security cooperation between communities living along border areas.
- 156.** To ensure a coordinated approach in countering violent extremism, we have strengthened the County Engagement Forum (CEF). Monthly CEF secretariat coordination meetings have been held to facilitate the implementation of the Mandera County Action Plan (MCAP). These meetings, supported by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Voices of Peace Africa (VOPA), and Women for Peace, have been instrumental in aligning efforts among stakeholders
- 157.** Additionally, the county has established a coordination forum that brings together various partners involved in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). This forum serves as a platform for information sharing, strategy development, and monitoring the effectiveness of ongoing interventions.
- 158.** In partnership with Women for Peace, the county government conducted sensitisation and mobilisation activities under the Daris Wanaag project, ensuring broad community participation. The county, in collaboration with the DRC, also conducted awareness sessions targeting vulnerable women and youth in Mandera South (Elwak, Wargadud, and Elele) to highlight the dangers of violent extremism.
- 159.** In efforts to enhance resilience among vulnerable groups, the county, in partnership with Frontier Alliance Development Council (FADC), conducted targeted engagements with women and youth along the Lafey-Damaas-Elwak corridor. These sessions focused on empowering communities to counter violent extremism, through alternative livelihood opportunities, mentorship, and awareness programs.

160. In collaboration with OSDA and the Daris Wanaag project, the county conducted training sessions in Banissa and Malka Mari, focusing on community engagement in creating counter-narratives through awareness campaigns and educational initiatives. These sessions' targeted youth, women, and religious leaders, ensuring that different community groups play an active role in promoting peace.

I take this opportunity to recognise the elders who took part in negotiating for the release of the 5 chiefs abducted while in their line of duty. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Somali administration in Boru Hache and the entire Mandera people who supported them during the challenging time.

This moment is dedicated to our fallen soldiers from NPS, NPR and other fighting units. I want to recognise the NPRs who selflessly volunteer to serve and protect. The following are among the brave souls lost recently

1. Abdihar Edin Abdi 24/03/2023 at Eres Suki
2. Kassim Hassan Abdikheir 12/09/2023 at Ashabito
3. Hassan Omar Abdirahman 24/02/2025 at Horshole

On behalf of the county government and the people of Mandera, we honour and remember our beloved heroes, who lost their lives protecting the people; their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

We remain committed to investing in peace, championing peace initiatives, empowering youth and countering Violent Extremism, with the goal to minimise and ultimately eradicate loss of lives as we strive to build a peaceful and secure county.

Finally, in line with our vision to create a prosperous Mandera County, where residents' needs lie at the heart of every decision making, and guided by Warren Bennis insight that "Leadership is the ability to turn vision into reality", this detailed report, shows how we have turned aspirations into tangible outcomes across multiple sectors. We have not only fulfilled but also surpassed the vast majority of promises made to our people. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our people centered approach as we continue achieving significant progress together.

Thank you all.